



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

*Michael F. Easley*  
Governor

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**AMERICORPS T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD CORPS MEMBERS TO  
GRADUATE**

***Members help early childhood teachers in Durham and Orange counties***

**Raleigh** - The North Carolina AmeriCorps program's Teacher Education And Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood Corps will hold its member graduation on Saturday, July 10, from noon to 4 p.m. in the main picnic and shelter area at Umstead Park in Chapel Hill.

"By serving in our early childcare centers, T.E.A.C.H. Corps members have allowed providers to increase their education level and better serve our children," Easley said. "Their service helps ensure that children receive the necessary preparation and skills so they enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed. I appreciate all that T.E.A.C.H. members have done for education in North Carolina."

AmeriCorps members serving with the T.E.A.C.H. Corps provide assistance in early childcare and education centers for children ages birth to age four. Members provide release time that allows teachers to attend certification classes. In addition, members implement literacy enhancement activities within each of the centers they serve. This year, Corps members provided assistance to 43 teachers in Durham and Orange counties.

"The Corps members have provided an exceptional service to our communities," said Anna Severens, director for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Corps program. "In addition to serving at their individual sites, Corps members were also involved in various community enhancement projects and community-wide events throughout the year. They were very dedicated to improving programs for our children and families."

T.E.A.C.H. members served their communities by designing and painting a community mural, improving community playgrounds, repainting childcare centers and participating in "Week of the Young Child" and "Stand for Children", community-wide events recognizing the importance of quality child care. Members also recruited more than 300 volunteers in their communities.

Eight AmeriCorps members participated in T.E.A.C.H. Corps during the 2003-2004 program year. AmeriCorps members who successfully complete their term of service receive an educational award of up to \$4,725 to repay student loans or to finance college, graduate school or vocational training.

*(For more information about the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Corps project, contact Anna*